

Anti-Personnel Obstacle Breaching System (APOBS)

DESCRIPTION

APOBS is a self contained, two-man portable obstacle breaching system packaged in two 65-pound backpacks. It can be deployed in less than 120 seconds, has a safe standoff distance of 25 meters, and creates a breach lane 0.6 meters wide by 45 meters long. APOBS is 90% effective against single impulse Anti-Personnel (AP) mines. Other mines, such as double impulse or magnetically fused mines, will remain intact unless systematically detonated or damaged by the explosives in APOBS. APOBS will replace the M1A2 Bangalore Torpedo Demolition Kit currently in the inventory.

PROCUREMENT PROFILE:	FY00	FY01
<i>Quantity:</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1,089</i>

OPERATIONAL IMPACT

APOBS significantly improves the standoff breaching capability of Marine Corps infantry and combat engineer elements against AP mines and wire obstacles. One APOBS employed by two Marines from a 25-meter standoff distance creates a breach lane that presently requires three bangalore torpedo kits (564 LBS), a squad of Marines, and 15 minutes to deploy.

PROGRAM STATUS

A Milestone III decision was made in FY99. Systems produced in FY99 will be used for production prove-out testing. Full rate production will begin in FY01. IOC is scheduled for FY02 with FOC in FY07.

DEVELOPER/MANUFACTURER

The Ensign-Bickford Company, Simsbury, CT